



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

North Zone – Shoshone NF  
203A Yellowstone Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414-9313

Clarks Fork Ranger District  
Greybull Ranger District  
Wapiti Ranger District

---

File Code: 1950

Date: April 27, 2001

## SCOPING STATEMENT

### USDA FOREST SERVICE Shoshone National Forest North Zone/Wapiti Ranger District Park County, Wyoming

#### Dear Interested Party:

The Shoshone National Forest is considering granting a road and bridge easement to a private property owner for access to their property. The easement is located in Sunlight Basin in Park County near Sunlight Creek. The location is about 40 miles northwest of Cody, Wyoming.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit written comments from all concerned parties. Your comments and suggestions are needed and encouraged. Project alternatives will be determined and environmental consequences analyzed during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process initiated by this scoping letter.

**NOTE:** If you no longer want to be included on the NEPA mailing list to receive these scoping notices, please notify the office and help us keep the list current. Scoping Statements, the quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) and other related NEPA documents are now being posted on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/shoshone>. See “Projects” under “Planning” on the Shoshone National Forest home page.

#### Introduction and Proposed Action

The **Purpose and Need** for the action is:

An application for this easement was received from Dale Nichols to construct a road and bridge across Sunlight Creek to access private his private property. The proposed easement is located in the SE ¼ Section 4, T.54 N., R.106W and is about .5 miles in length.

Current access is by a low water crossing through Sunlight Creek. Access is not possible in high water during parts of May, all of June and most of July, depending on the year. The applicant's preference is a bridge across the river at an existing head gate location. This location would require some road work for a short distance on both sides. This location is desirable to the applicant for two reasons: It would gain access to his property and also enable the applicant to consistently utilize the existing irrigation system.

Alternative proposals for obtaining access include constructing a bridge at the campground site. Another alternative is stabilizing the river-bed (low-water crossing) by means determined to be



long term and environmentally compatible and feasible from an engineering standpoint at either the campground location or the headgate location.

### **Possible Alternatives**

- No Action Alternative – Current management would continue and the easement application would be denied.
- Proposed Action - The easement application would be authorized as proposed.
- Other Alternatives, as needed.

### **Preliminary Issues:**

- What is the need for public access to the area?
- What are the maintenance needs and whose responsibility is maintenance?
- Is there a need for year round access?
- What affect will this action have on National Forest System lands or other landowners?
- What affect will this action have on fisheries, wildlife or other natural resource values?
- What other locations or alternatives to the proposal should be considered?

### **Nature of Decision**

The decision to be made is whether or not to authorize the easement as proposed, or an alternative to the proposal. Also, the decision could include what mitigation measures need to be applied to the proposal. Based on public comment from this scoping notice and environmental analysis, the Forest Service must determine whether significant issues or concerns exist. If there are any, they will be addressed in the analysis and the eventual decision.

### **Contacts**

The public is provided this opportunity to identify and submit issues and concerns they feel the Forest Service should address. To be most helpful, written comments need to be submitted no later than May 25, 2001. Comments should be as specific as possible to assist us in the analysis.

For further information, contact Jennifer Watson, Lands Specialist at (307) 527-6241. Written comments can be mailed to: Attention-Marty Sharp, NEPA Coordinator, North Zone/Wapiti Ranger District, 203 A Yellowstone Ave., Cody, WY 82414. Again, your comments are important to us.

Sincerely,  
*/s/ Brent L. Larson*

BRENT L. LARSON  
District Ranger